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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 08HAVANA542, INFORMAL POLL OF REFUGEE APPLICANTS SHOWS WOEFUL

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08HAVANA542**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08HAVANA542	2008-07-09 20:51	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	US Interests Section Havana

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mclatchydc.com/2011/06/18/116072/wikileaks-few-cubans-can-name.html>

VZCZCXYZ0021
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHUB #0542/01 1912051
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 092051Z JUL 08
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3488

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 000542

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/02/2013
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [PINR](#) [PREF](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: INFORMAL POLL OF REFUGEE APPLICANTS SHOWS WOEFUL
LACK OF INFORMATION

Classified By: CDA James L Williams for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: FROM MAY 20 TO JUNE 20, USINT REFUGEE UNIT CONDUCTED AN UNOFFICIAL AND UNSCIENTIFIC SURVEY OF 236 CUBAN ADULTS (OVER AGE 21) W
2. (C) RESPONDENTS WERE TOLD THE SURVEY WAS ANONYMOUS AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR REFUGEE APPLICATION. THEY FILLED OUT THE SURVEY IN THE
A. OSCAR ESPINOSA CHEPE (INDEPENDENT ECONOMIST AND DISSIDENT, ONE OF THE 75 DISSIDENTS ARRESTED, TRIED AND CONVICTED IN 2003 TO 20 YEARS IN PF
B. MARIO CESAR KINDELAN MESA (TWO-TIME OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNING BOXER (SYDNEY 2000 AND ATHENS 2004). BOXING IS A VERY POPULAR AND IMPORTANT
C. MARTHA BEATRIZ ROQUE: (ONE OF CUBA'S MOST PROMINENT, VOCAL, AND RECOGNIZABLE DISSIDENTS, IMPRISONED 1997-2000 FOR HER PAPER TITLED "THE HOM
D. RICARDO ALARCON (PRESIDENT OF CUBA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE 1993): 176/236, OR 75 PERCENT. NOTE: FEW RESPONDENTS SEEMED TO KNOW ALARCON'S
E. JOSE RAUL CAPABLANCA (WORLD CHESS CHAMPION 1921-27.): 151/236, OR 64 PERCENT.
F. ROBERTO DE MIRANDA (ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE "75", SENTENCED TO A 20 YEAR TERM IN 2003 FOR COLLECTING SIGNATURES FOR THE VARELA PROJECT, WHICH
G. ALICIA ALONSO: (MOST RECOGNIZABLE FIGURE IN CUBAN BALLET. BALLET IS HUGE IN CUBA.): 218/236, OR 92 PERCENT.
H. JOSE LUIS PEREZ GARCIA AKA ANTUNEZ: (ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT DISSIDENTS IN CUBA, JAILED FOR 17 YEARS, RELEASED 2007. ANTUNEZ IS EXTREMELY
I. CARLOS LAGE DAVILA: (VICE PRESIDENT): 180/236, OR 76 PERCENT. LIKE ALARCON, MANY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED LAGE AS "POLITICIAN," OR "GOVERNMENT
J. LAURA POLLAN: (WIFE OF IMPRISONED CUBAN ACTIVIST HECTOR MASEDA, LEADER OF THE DAMAS DE BLANCO - LADIES IN WHITE, ORGANIZATION OF SPOUSES OF
K. REINALDO ARENAS (1943-1990. CUBAN POET, NOVELIST, AND PLAYWRIGHT FAMOUS FOR SUCH WORKS AS "BEFORE NIGHT FALLS" (ON NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
L. LIVAN HERNANDEZ AND ORLANDO HERNANDEZ: (CUBAN BROTHERS AND PITCHERS WHO BOTH FLED TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL IN THE UNITED STATES IN 195
M. ALBITA RODRIGUEZ: (CUBAN SINGER, LIVING IN MIAMI SINCE 1988): 127/236, OR 54 PERCENT.
N. OSCAR ELIAS BISCET: (CUBAN DOCTOR AND PROMINENT CHRISTIAN ANTI-ABORTION ACTIVIST, AND A NOTED ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREE
O. LUIS POSADA CARRILES: (CUBAN ANTI-CASTRO FIGURE PRESENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES. APPEARS ON BILLBOARDS IN CUBA AND FREQUENTLY IN THE GOC-CON
P. OSWALDO PAYA. (ALONG WITH MBR, CONSIDERED CUBA'S MOST PROMINENT DISSIDENT. AUTHOR OF THE VARELA PROJECT, WHICH AT LEAST 25,000 CUBANS HAVE
Q. JOSE FUSTER: (ONE OF THE MORE FAMOUS CUBAN ARTISTS, WHO HAS PAINTED, SCULPTED, AND MADE CERAMIC TILES FOR 40 YEARS. HAS TRAVELED ALL OVER N
R. YOANI SANCHEZ: (CUBAN BLOGGER WHO PASSES FOR A FOREIGNER AND THEREFORE IS ABLE TO SLIP INTO HOTELS AND USE INTERNET COMPUTERS TO WRITE FACT
S. RAMON LABANINO: (ONE OF FIVE CUBANS LABELED "HEROES" BY THE GOC, WHICH FREQUENTLY ACCUSES THE UNITED STATES AS HAVING CONVICTED AND JAILED
T. MICHAEL PARMLY: (THE FORMER CHIEF OF MISSION AT USINT): 26/236, OR 11 PERCENT.

ANALYSIS:

3. (C) 113 OF THE 236 REFUGEE APPLICANTS POLLED (MORE THAN ONE HALF) COULD NOT RECOGNIZE ANY DISSIDENT/OPPOSITION FIGURE. OF THE SEVEN DISSIDENT
4. (C) IT APPEARS THAT THE CUBANS MOST DISCONTENTED WITH THE SYSTEM--THOSE WHO APPLY FOR REFUGEE STATUS--HAVE LITTLE AWARENESS OF OPPOSITION FIG
5. (C) EVEN THOUGH MANY TRY TO TUNE OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ENDLESS PROPAGANDA, SOME OF THE REGIME'S OFT-REPEATED MESSAGES HAVE BEEN ABSORBED BY
6. (C) THE SURVEY DEMONSTRATES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN LIMITING ACCESS TO OPPOSITION VIEWS. YOANI SANCHEZ WAS RECENTLY N
7. (C) THOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE REGIME'S PERVERSIVE MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION ON THE ISLAND PREVENTS WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF DISSIDENTS AND THEIR
WILLIAMS